United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after meeting with Secretary-General, says situation in Haiti is very promising for return to democracy; Middle East, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina among issues discussed.

+ Secretary-General appoints Edouard Brunner of Switzerland as Special Envoy for Georgia for initial period of three months; Envoy will seek cease-fire agreement and assist negotiations for political solution to conflict in Abkhazia.

+ Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference, will travel to Moscow on Friday, 14 May, and to London on Monday, 17 May, for meeting with British Foreign Minister; Security Council Sanctions Committee extends deadline for humanitarian shipments to former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to 12 June.

+ Eugeniusz Wyzner appointed by Secretary-General as Commissioner-General for Taejon International Exposition in Republic of Korea.

+ ICRC resumes flights to southern Sudan after signing memorandum of understanding with Sudanese Government.

+ UNESCO aims at building "culture of peace" and working more closely with United Nations system, UNESCO Director-General tells Executive Board as it begins 141st session in Paris.

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The situation in Haiti is very promising for a return to democracy, with the cooperation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the de facto government, the army and the police, United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher told correspondents today after a meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

(more)

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Mr. Christopher said he and the Secretary-General had had wide-ranging discussions on a number of topics, including the procedures needed to bring about, in an orderly and effective way, the restoration of democracy and the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

The Secretary-General, in a statement, thanked the United States Secretary of State for his close cooperation with the United Nations. The talks also dealt with the Middle East, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, among other things.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Edouard Brunner of Switzerland as his Special Envoy for Georgia, for an initial period of three months, following the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia. Mr. Brunner's tasks, based on the Moscow peace agreement of 3 September 1992, will be to obtain a cease-fire agreement and to assist negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict, with the support of neighbouring countries and others concerned, the Secretary-General said in a letter to the Security Council, dated 5 May.

The dispatch of a new visiting mission, which had originally been envisaged, would not be enough to revive the peace process, the Secretary-General said. He referred to a statement by the President of the Security Council on 29 January 1993, which had expressed grave concern regarding the situation in Abkhazia and had called on all parties to stop fighting immediately and to implement the Moscow agreement.

Ambassador Brunner, who planned to visit the region in the second half of May, would consult closely with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the letter said. He would report to the Secretary-General on the results achieved after three months, at which time a decision will be made on whether to extend his appointment.
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Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, will travel to Moscow on Friday, 14 May, according to a United Nations spokesman today. On Monday, 17 May, they would go to London for meetings with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd.

Before leaving for Moscow, Mr. Stoltenberg will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday, 13 May.

Lord Owen met last night with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali for a general review of the situation in former Yugoslavia. This morning Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance had met with the Foreign Minister of Greece and the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, President Gligorov, on the question of that Republic. Those meetings would continue tomorrow.

(more)

In a separate development, the Sanctions Committee established by Security Council resolution 724 (1991) today decided, among other things, that acknowledgements of shipments of humanitarian supplies - foodstuffs and medical supplies - to the former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) issued before 27 April, but not yet exercised, should remain in effect until 12 June 1993. Such shipments would have to be adequately monitored at border crossings with the former Yugoslavia on behalf of the Governments concerned and relevant Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs) to ensure that the cargo corresponded to the items notified.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Eugeniusz Wyzner as United Nations Commissioner-General for the Taejon International Exposition in the Republic of Korea, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Wyzner will represent the Secretary-General and the United Nations system of agencies and programmes, some 22 of which have confirmed their participation in the Exposition.

In accordance with United Nations rules, all costs involved would be borne by the Republic of Korea as host country, and United Nations participation would be at no cost to the Organization, the spokesman said.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has resumed flights to southern Sudan after an interruption of more than a year, according to a communiqué issued by the Red Cross today. The resumption follows the signing on 21 March of a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Sudan which defines the scope of the ICRC's activities there.

An ICRC team flew into Juba on 10 and 11 May and started assessing the situation in camps for displaced people and in the town's hospitals and dispensaries, where medical supplies would be distributed, the communiqué said. Within weeks, the ICRC would carry out a detailed survey of 14 localities in Upper Nile and Equatoria provinces, which are controlled either by the Sudanese Government or by factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aimed at promoting intellectual cooperation, building a "culture of peace" and working more closely with the United Nations system, UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor told the Organization's Executive Board as it began its 141st session in Paris on Monday, 10 May.

In order to provide intellectual leadership, UNESCO had created an Ad Hoc Forum of Reflection, the World Commission on Culture and Development and the World Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century, Mr. Mayor said. In October, the Board had approved the Culture of Peace in El Salvador

(more)

programme, which would support democratization, training and teaching projects. UNESCO activities in Somalia, Mozambique, Slovenia and Croatia were mostly directed at peace-building through the education of children.

UNESCO's financial situation had improved in the first quarter of 1993, as it had received $30.7 million more it had spent, he noted. However, vacant posts could not be filled in order to make savings, which prevented continuity of personnel. That factor, combined with the limitations of the Working Capital Fund and the lack of a reserve fund, hindered the organization in carrying out its tasks.

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Oil spills and pollution from the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait affected the marine and coastal environment in the region, according to an updated scientific report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). While oil had decomposed relatively quickly in the sea, it had deeply penetrated sheltered sand beaches. Some coral reefs showed signs of distress, while fisheries had been adversely affected, the report said.

An effective international mechanism with a predetermined procedure for immediate action was needed to deal with large-scale environmental crises, UNEP said. Experience had shown that United Nations agencies could work together effectively if objectives were laid out, responsibilities were clearly defined, and a strategy for coordination and communication was implemented from the outset.

In responding to the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, 12 United Nations and international organizations had worked as one team, and that augured well for future emergency situations, according to the report.

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Corrections:

The resolution adopted yesterday by the Security Council calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was number 825 (1993).

The United States representative to the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development is Timothy E. Wirth. His name was misspelled in yesterday's highlights.

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